

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 18 as follows:

18. (Amended) A composite board comprising inorganic or cellulosic materials or both inorganic and cellulosic materials and a latex binder comprising a copolymer having [with] a T_g of at least about 80°C [such that the resulting ceiling board maintains dimensional stability with increased temperature and humidity] wherein [and] the resulting [ceiling] composite board has a modulus of rupture of at least about 130 psi as measured by ASTM 367-78, whereby, upon exposing a 1-1/2 x 6 inch strip of the composite board to 90 percent relative humidity at 94°F for 96 hours, the composite board maintains dimensional stability.

~~Please cancel Claims 1-17.~~

Please add the following new claims:

B2
24. The composite board of Claim 18 wherein the copolymer comprises a hard monomer having as a homopolymer a T_g of at least about 80°C and a soft monomer having as a homopolymer a T_g of less than about 35°C.

25. The composite board of Claim 24 wherein the hard monomer is present in an amount of from about 50 to 99 weight percent and the soft monomer is present in an amount of from about 1 to about 50 weight percent.

26. The composite board of Claim 18 wherein the modulus of rupture is at least about 140 psi.

27. The composite board of Claim 18 wherein the copolymer has a T_g of from about 85° to about 110°C.

28. The composite board of Claim 18 wherein the copolymer has a T_g of from about 85° to about 120°C.

Respectfully submitted,

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